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YUGOSLAVIA: Setting the Stage for the Army

The Serbian Republic legislature yesterday voted to oust the representative of Kosovo Province from the federal Presidency, leaving the top executive body virtually paralyzed with representation from only four republics. Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and Serbian opposition elements have criticized Serbian President Milosevic's effort to put the Presidency out of business. Serbian anti-Communists plan a mass protest for tomorrow. The Army has rebuffed all communications from the Presidency since last Friday, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Serbia reportedly is mobilizing at least 25,000 of its own militia reservists. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Army's refusal to acknowledge the Presidency since Serbian Chairman Jovic resigned suggests the military may be documenting a claim of constitutional justification for imposing military rule that is based on the Presidency having ceased to function. Milosevic, however, may press the military to act before his Serbian opponents can muster opposition against him. In addition, the Kosovo representative may challenge the authority of the Serbian legislature and try to hold his seat, weakening the legal justification for military action. [REDACTED]

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